

Ah May. When hope springs eternal and a young legislator's fancy turns to crafting an anti-competitive bill designed to stifle competition and keep the ear of the American public tuned to the same old crap 24/7. The fact that this bill's co-sponsors are on different sides of the aisle simply means that money draws no distinction when the issue at stake is market share and monopoly retention.

How anyone can make the argument with a straight face that this is anything more than gross protectionism (a stance growing increasingly popular in Washington these days) is beyond comprehension. Do our legislators truly feel we are this stupid? If local broadcasters are unable to retain listeners with their programming, then they should suffer the same fate as any other vendor in any other industry - they should simply go away. Further, any attempt to wrap the debate in the comfy blanket of "emergency broadcast" coverage is specious at best. This is special interest pandering pure and simple. As the body overseeing this issue, I urge you to do what you know is the right thing, and end this ludicrous subterfuge before it gathers any momentum.